NATURAL RESOURCES
TECHNICAL NOTE

THE 1991 NOVA SCOTIA BOW HUNT

by Tony Nette and Mort Stewart

A total of 2,199 bowhunter stamps were issued in 1991. This included hunters who participated in the Special Open Season for Bowhunting Deer, the Chignecto Bow Hunt, and the General Open Season. The Special Open Season for Bowhunting Deer in 1991 was September 28 through October 12. Bowhunters registered 90 deer (47 males and 43 females) in this year's early season compared to 64 deer in 1990. This reflects an increase of 29 per cent over 1990.

During the General Open Season for Hunting Deer from October 25 through December 7, 1991, bowhunters registered 39 deer (23 males and 14 females; 2 deer were of undetermined sex).

The Chignecto Game Sanctuary Hunt continues to be popular, with 17 deer registered from this hunt (9 female and 8 male). (Table 1)

Bowhunters registered 146 deer, representing less than 1 per cent of the total deer harvest (Figure 1). The hunter success rate (8.1 per cent) of 17 deer by 210 hunters is up slightly from 1990 (5.3 per cent), the lowest hunter success since the start of the deer population boom in the mid 1970s (Figure 2).

This year 195 resident and 15 non-resident hunters spent an average of 5.36 days each for a total of 1,260 hunter days (Table 2)in the Chignecto area.

Bow hunters are asked to report on game sightings during their stay in the Chignecto Sanctuary. Deer and moose sightings continue to decline, while ruffed grouse show continued improvement (Table 3). The drop in deer sightings within the Chignecto Sanctuary appears to indicate a declining deer herd. This is believed to be only a local trend and to be a temporary situation. Other indicators throughout the province suggest our deer herd is again on the increase. (Reproduction rate – increasing; starvation frequency – declining; hunter success rate – improving.)

Figure 1. *Provincial Deer Harvest Summary, 1991*

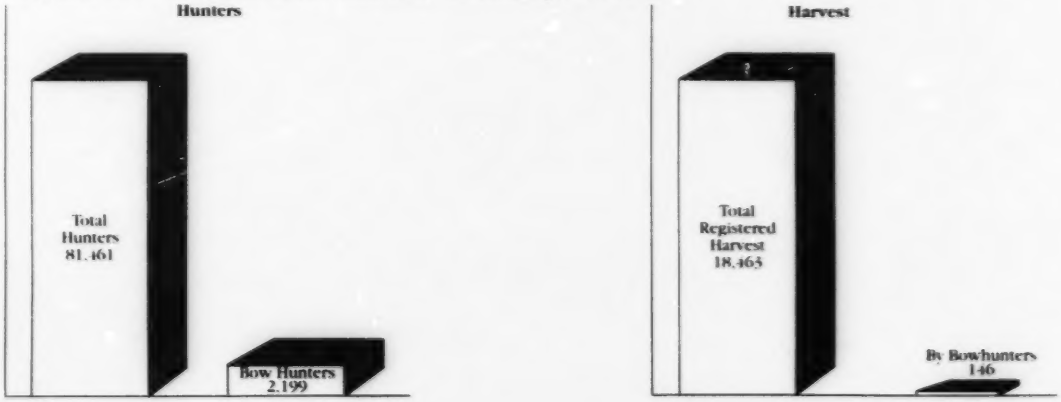

Figure 2. *Hunter Success, Chignecto Bow Hunt, 1970-1991*

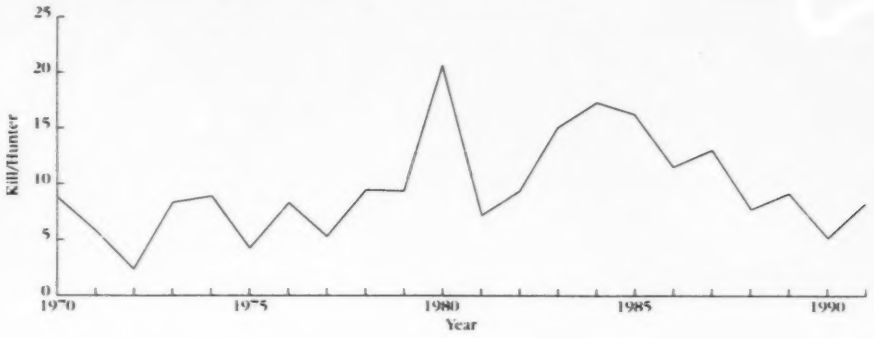

Table 1 *Registered Deer Kill, Chignecto Bow Hunt 1991*

= Deer Taken		Average Age (Range)	Average Weight (Range) (kg)	Average No. of Points (Range)
Male	8	3.8 (1.5–5.5)	54.2 (45.5–59.4)	8 (2–14)
Female	9	3.8 (1.5–5.5)	61.0 (31.2–83.5)	N/A
Total	17	3.8	57.6	

Table 2 *Hunting Effort and Deer Sightings by Week, Chignecto Bow Hunt 1991*

Week	Hunters (per day)	Hunter Days	Total Sightings	Harvest
OFS	63	103	80	0
Week 1	64	146	101	3
Week 2	96	216	116	2
Week 3	110	331	205	5
Week 4	75	205	131	4
Week 5	78	155	55	2
Week 6	39	104	54	1
Total (210 Hunters)		1260	742	17

Table 3 *Bowhunter Game Sighting Reports ,Chignecto 1987–1991*

Year	No.of Deer	Deer/ Hunter Day	No.of Moose	Moose/ Hunter Day	Ruffed Grouse	Grouse/ Hunter Day
1987	3,621	2.10	50	0.03	808	0.50
1988	2,583	1.59	63	0.04	459	0.28
1989	2,256	1.78	61	0.05	1,311	1.03
1990	906	0.62	25	0.02	1,072	0.73
1991	742	0.59	14	0.01	2,360	1.87

Year	No. of Hare	Hare/ Hunter Day	No. of Bobcat	Bobcat/ Hunter Day	No. of Coyote	Coyote/ Hunter Day
1987	481	0.30	4	0.002	58	0.034
1988	331	0.20	11	0.007	51	0.031
1989	103	0.08	10	0.008	45	0.026
1990	41	0.03	1	0.001	21	0.014
1991	32	0.03	4	0.003	44	0.035

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